

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~updating a message from a first version to an upgraded version by chaining through intermediate versions~~ comprising:

updating a message from a first version to an upgraded version by chaining through intermediate versions, wherein updating comprises:  
receiving an update message having a first version format; and and,  
repeatedly generating a revised update message having a next most recent version format based on the update message until a final update message having an upgraded version format is generated.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein generating a revised update message having a next most recent version format includes:

receiving a first update message; and,  
calling a next most recent version mapping function to map contents of the first update message to generate a second update message.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the update message includes a set of records for a database in the first version.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the set of records for the database in the first version is a complete set of records for the database.

5. (Original) An article comprising a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon, which when executed, causes:

receipt of an update message having a first version format; and,  
repeated generation of a revised update message having a next most recent version format based on the update message until a final update message having an upgraded version format is generated.

6. (Original) The article of claim 5, wherein the computer readable medium further having instructions stored thereon, which when executed, causes:

receipt of a first update message; and,  
calling of a next most recent version mapping function to map contents of the first update message to generate a second update message.

7. (Original) The article of claim 5, wherein the update message includes a set of records for a database in the first version.

8. (Original) The article of claim 7, wherein the set of records for the database in the first version is a complete set of records for the database.

9. (Original) An apparatus for updating a message from a first version to an upgraded version by chaining through intermediate versions comprising:

means for receiving an update message having a first version format; and,  
means for repeatedly generating a revised update message having a next most recent version format based on the update message until a final update message having an upgraded version format is generated.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:

means for receiving a first update message; and,  
means for calling a next most recent version mapping function to map contents of the first update message to generate a second update message.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the update message includes a set of records for a database in the first version.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the set of records for the database in the first version is a complete set of records for the database.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~for updating a message from a first version to an upgraded version by chaining through intermediate versions~~ comprising:

    a network switching device to receive an update message having a first version format; and,

    a controller card to update a message from a first version to an upgraded version by chaining through intermediate versions, the controller card to repeatedly generate a revised update message having a next most recent version format based on the update message until a final update message having an upgraded version format is generated.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the network switching device receives a first update message.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:

    a mapper to call a next most recent version mapping function to map contents of the first update message to generate a second update message.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the update message includes a set of records for a database in the first version.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the set of records for the database in the first version is a complete set of records for the database.